

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the last paragraph on page 6, lines 26-29, as provided below:

~~Fiber polarization adjusters (paddles) 14a, 15a in both the sample and reference arms 14, 15 may be used to maximize the light power incident upon the sample 20 and the optimum interference of sample and reference arm light, respectively. However, measurement of retardation and fast axis does not depend upon ideal alignment of paddles.~~